

**SECRET**



PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

0330  
25 Oct 73

MEMORANDUM FOR JERRY WARREN  
ROBERT MCCLOSKEY

From: Jerry Friedheim

OSD REVIEWED 08-Mar-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

Queries on increased alert conditions of DOD forces worldwide began to be received at 0300. We and all our commands have established a "no comment" position. In my view this will by morning create major news interest and play with inevitable speculation that "widespread alerts" are Middle East related. This likely would be further tied to speculation that we may feel it necessary to do something to make the ceasefire take hold and to speculation that we may be preparing to take Sadat up on his call for U.S. and Soviet troops.

It may be desirable to hold with the "no comment" and understand that this will focus heavy attention on the White House meeting with the congressional leadership and on SecState's planned press conference. The key question there will be "What have you alerted and why?"

Should it be desired to establish a public holding position one option is for DOD to answer its queries about alerts essentially as follows:

"The US Government hopes and expects that the Middle East ceasefire will be effective. All US efforts are directed toward that goal. We continue to take certain prudent steps toward that goal including steps to assure the necessary and continued readiness of US defense forces. We have no further comment at this time.

We will hold "no comment" until we have your guidance. I can brief you on the actions taken which will become public when you desire.

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*Jerry*  
Jerry Friedheim